JOHN AND LU ARE SEARCHING FOR THE DEMON STONE, A MAGIC STONE THAT CAN GRANT ANY WISH. IN A BATTLE WITH THE LITTLE MOUSE, JOHN IS TOTALLY OVERWHELMED. THEN LU UNLOCKS THE POWER OF JOHN'S SPIRIT, AND HE ACQUIRES A NEW POWER - "THE BLOOD OF THE DEMON LORD."

THE 16TH NIGHT + A TRULY NOBLE THIEF

AKIMINE KAMIJYO

しろがねの鴉 (カラス)

THE SILVERY CROW

Who is this Sleeping Beauty waiting for...?

YOUR WEAPONS WON'T WORK AGAINST ME ANYMORE...
NOT A CHANCE!

HUH!?
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING AGAIN?
I... I CAN'T MOVE...
GAH!

IT'S TIME TO END THIS!!
MOUSE MANEI!!
WH... WHAT IS THAT!? A BALL OF WEAPONS!?
OH NO!! IF JOHN DOESN'T DO SOMETHING...
HE'S A GONER...

WH... WHAT THE HELL!?
OH MY!!
THAT'S THE DEMON LORD'S SCALES!! THERE'S NOTHING IN THE WORLD THAT CAN PENETRATE A SHIELD MADE FROM THE DEMON LORD'S SKIN!!
GAH
AH!
JOHN!! NOW!!

DID YOU DO THAT!?
LU!
YEAH!! FOR MANY GENERATIONS SINCE THE DEMON LORD WAS FIRST CONTRACTED, MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY HAVE CARRIED A SECRET ZERO MATRIX...
IN IT ARE THE SEALS FOR THE "FANG", THE "BLOOD", AND THE "SCALES!!"
GURGLE
BUT... THIS ZERO MATRIX IS SOMETHING THAT NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO BEAR...
LU?
OH! IT'S NOTHING ...
ANYWAY, I CAN MAKE YOUR HAND DO ANYTHING I WANT!!
YOU'VE GOT A REALLY COOL POWER...

THE ONE WHO CONTROLS TIME IS THE ONE WHO CONTROLS THE BATTLE!!
LU, CAN YOU MAKE IT DO THE "FANG OF THE DEMON LORD" AGAIN?
HUH? BUT THAT WON'T HAVE ANY EFFECT,YOU HAVE OTHER WAYS TO ATTACK AND DEFEND...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
JOHN!? WH... WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING!?
HUH!?
DAMN IT! HE CAUGHT US OFF GUARD!!
!!
ARE YOU DONE?

LEAVE US ALONE!
LU, I NEED YOUR HELP!
WAAHH!! IT'S OUR LAST CHANCE!!
SUI
YEAAAAAH!!

ガガガガ
ガガガガ
AHH!
GAH!
HAHA!! YOU BARELY ESCAPED!!
BUT THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL DIE...
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME!!
AHAHA!! AND NOW I'M OVER HERE!!
THIS IS MAKING ME DIZZY...

GAH!
THAT'S...
WHEN DID HE..
HOW ANNO YING
IT'S TIME TO FINISH YOU...
HEH!
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...

I CAN'T DRAW FAST ENOUGH!
AHHHHHHHHHHH!!

GAH!!
ドキ
D... DAMN IT...
H... HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN TO ME!?
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN DRAW AS MANY WEAPONS AS YOU WANT, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU CAN'T DRAW...
ニヤ
AND THAT'S...

TIME!!
WHEN YOU'RE DRAWING, THERE'S A SHORT TIME WHERE YOU'RE TOTALLY OPEN!
SO IF SOMEBODY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT OPENING AND USED A SPEED ATTACK, THEY'D WIN, RIGHT?
WH... WHAT?
THAT IDIOT SAW THROUGH MY WEAKNESS IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT!?
I GUESS HE'S...
HUH?
NOT AS DUMB AS HE LOOKS...

I'VE GOT STUFF TO DO, SO CAN WE BE DONE WITH THIS?
OR IS IT A DEATHMATCH?
YOU'RE RIGHT LU, I ONLY WON BECAUSE OF YOU!
ARE YOU CRAZY!? WE ALMOST GOT KILLED BACK THERE!!
WOULD YOU PLEASE THINK BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING STUPID!?
THANKS!
ぽっ
...HUH!?
WELL... ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS!? IT'S NOT LIKE I ENJOY SAVING YOU
YOU...

YOU MONSTER!! YOU'D BETTER BE READY FOR A BEATING!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
HUH? HUH?
OH? WHAT WOULD YOU SAY...
IF I STILL HAD ENOUGH POWER TO KILL BOTH OF YOU?
WH... WHAT!?
WH WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
...
YOU'VE BEEN STEALING MONEY AND FOOD TO HELP THESE PEOPLE ALL ALONG...
I'D TELL YOU TO QUIT TRYING TO BE AN ASSHOLE!

WHENEVER YOU SHOWED UP HERE, YOU ACTED LIKE YOU ONLY WANTED TO KILL AND DESTROY.
WH... WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US!?
TH THAT'S...
WHAT!?
HE.. HE'S RIGHT! WE KNOW ALL ABOUT HIM!! MICKEY'S BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD TO STEAL ENOUGH MONEY AND STUFF TO SUPPORT YOU!
TH... THEN...
I TRY TO DO THE RIGHT THING, BUT IT'S ALL A LIE.. I STEAL FOR YOUR SAKE, BUT IN YOUR EYES, WHAT I DO IS WRONG...
I'M NOT THE LITTLE MOUSE YOU WISHED FOR... BUT I WAS BORN TO DO THE DIRTY THINGS THAT YOU COULDN'T OR WOULDN'T DO.
YOU WEREN'T SENT TO PUNISH US BUT TO SAVE US...

IT'S WEIRD TO SEE THE LITTLE MOUSE ACTUALLY ACTING LIKE A MOUSE
JUST DON'T THINK ABOUT IT
HEY, IS HE BLUSHING?
B BUT I WON'T BOTHER YOU ANYMORE!!
HEY, WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR YOU TO SAY HOW YOU REALLY FEEL?
SHUT UP YOU BIRD BRAIN!!
NOW YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR.
HUH?

LITTLE MOUSE!?
JUST WHEN THEY THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER!! THE MAN WITH THE CROSS-SHAPED SWORD SMIRKS SILENTLY!!
NEXT CHAPTER: SHOCK!!

L...
LITTLE MOUSE!!
TH...
THAT SWORD...
N...
NO...

F...
FUKUROU...!!
しろがねの鴉
カラス
THE SILVERY CROW

FUKUROU...!!
THAT'S THE MAN WHO STOLE THE DEMON STONE AND KILLED JOHN'S MENTOR, KUROI!!
A CONFRONTATION WITH AN OLD ENEMY!! IT'S GOING TO BE A FIERCE, DESPERATE BATTLE!!
The 17th Night - Appearance

LITTLE MOUSE..!!
OH, YOU'RE STRONGER THAN I EXPECTED
Y...
YOU BASTARD...
HOW COULD YOU
...BUT I TOLD YOU TO KEEP THE SILVERY CROW FROM GETTING HIS HANDS ON THE DEMON STONE... I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO PLAY WITH HIM...
IF THAT IS HOW YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE... THEN I DON'T HAVE ANY USE FOR YOU AS A TOOL.
THAT'S CRUEL!!
A...A TOOL!?
I... I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD
AT A TIME LIKE THIS
YOU... YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO SCREW UP...!!

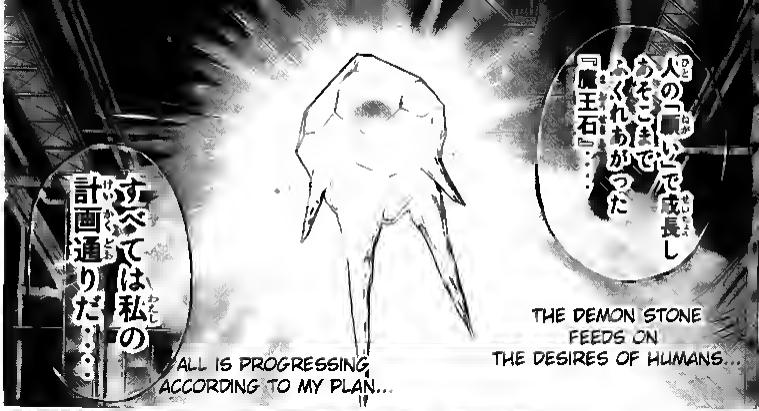
HUH!?
TH— THE DRAWINGS ARE WHAT!?
スッ
2
ゴオオ

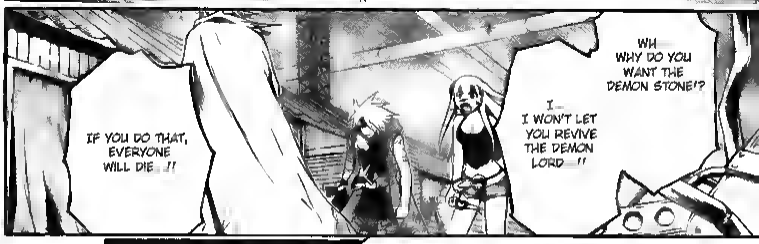
IT'S HUGE...
DIIIIIEE!!
IN JUST ONE STRIKE!?
DID THEY... GET HIM...!?

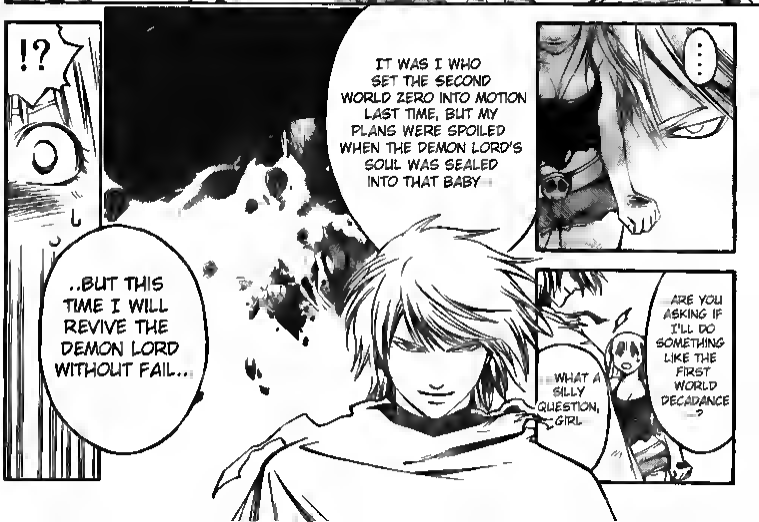
HE'S... HE'S NOT HURT!?
...IS THIS GUY EVEN HUMAN!?
HE STOPPED ALL OF LITTLE MOUSE'S SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS WITH ONE HAND__!?
...TOO BAD, MOUSE.
GAH
BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU JUST__
DISAPPEAR

L...
LITTLE MOUSE!!
NO...
NO,
IT CAN'T
BE...
THERE'S NO NEED
FOR TEARS.
AFTER ALL, HE
WAS MERELY
A CREATION OF THE
DEMON STONE
TO BEGIN WITH...
...BUT YOU'RE
WELCOME TO
JOIN HIM.
...YOU...

YOU BASTARD ...!!
SO WE MEET AGAIN I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HERE, MR. "SILVERY CROW"
DID YOU SEE IT? THE DEMON STONE IS QUITE FASCINATING, ISN'T IT?


人の「願い」で成長しあそこまでふくれあがった『魔王石』……
すべては私の計画通りだ……
THE DEMON STONE FEEDS ON THE DESIRES OF HUMANS...
ALL IS PROGRESSING ACCORDING TO MY PLAN...


WH- WHY DO YOU WANT THE DEMON STONE!?
I— I WON'T LET YOU REVIVE THE DEMON LORD!!
IF YOU DO THAT, EVERYONE WILL DIE!!


!?
IT WAS I WHO SET THE SECOND WORLD ZERO INTO MOTION LAST TIME, BUT MY PLANS WERE SPOILED WHEN THE DEMON LORD'S SOUL WAS SEALED INTO THAT BABY
..BUT THIS TIME I WILL REVIVE THE DEMON LORD WITHOUT FAIL...
ARE YOU ASKING IF I'LL DO SOMETHING LIKE THE FIRST WORLD DECADANCE—?
WHAT A SILLY QUESTION, GIRL

Y... YOU...
YOU CAUSED THE SECOND WORLD ZERO...!?
D... DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS BE A MEMBER OF THAT FAMILY WHO FOOLISHLY CONTRACTED WITH THE DEMON LORD!?
YOU CREATED CROWS AND LET ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE DIE FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR OWN SELFISH WISH!?
THAT CRIME CAN'T BE ERASED...
SOME PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING PUNISHED BY THEIR CONTRACT WITH THE DEMON LORD!!
AND YOU'D DO THAT ALL OVER AGAIN!?
...CRIME? PUNISHMENT!? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE...?
AS LONG AS I GET WHAT I WANT...
THAT'S RIGHT.
LU.

I'LL DESTROY THE WORLD AND REMAKE IT AS I SEE FIT! WITH THE POWER OF THE DEMON LORD, I'LL RULE IT ALL...!!
IT'S UP TO THE STRONG TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE!!
THAT IS MY WISH...!!
WH...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS GUY...?

JOHN!!
IS THAT ALL?
FOR THAT WISH...
THOSE PEOPLE HAD TO DIE!?

CAN YOU REALLY SAY THAT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL!?
GAH!

I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU YET...
YOUR BODY IS PRECIOUS TO ME...
GAH!!
GAH
JOHN...!! ISN'T THAT ENOUGH!?
...IS HE!?
WHOA!
HE TORE JOHN'S ARMS TO SHREDS...
...AND HE KNOWS ABOUT THE DEMON LORD INSIDE JOHN...

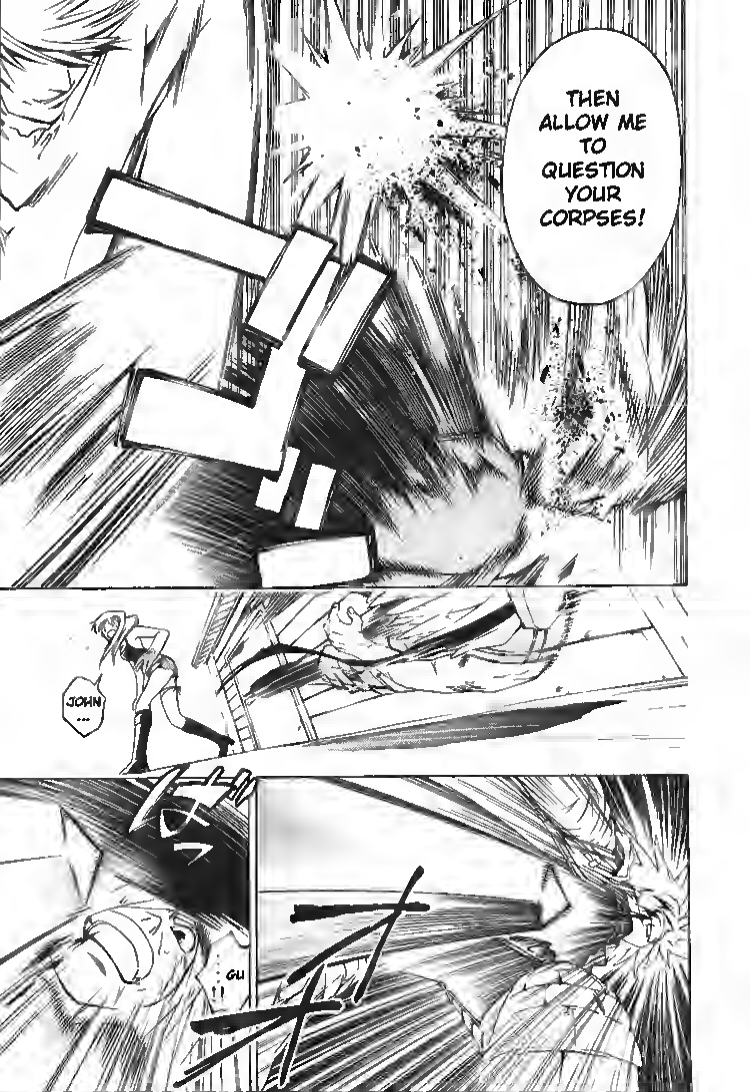
NOW THAT YOU SEE YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING, WHY DON'T YOU QUIETLY HAND OVER THE DEMON STONE YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE FROM ME...?
...ARE YOU SHOCKED AT THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR STRENGTH?
DON'T BOTHER HIDING IT... I KNOW YOU HAVE THE DEMON STONE AND IT'S THE LAST ONE I NEED...
WHAT...!? WHAT RE YOU S YING...
WHAT...?
YES...
...IT IS POSSIBLE...
N...
NO... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE

SAVE FOR THE ONE YOU HAVE. ALL 13 PIECES OF THE DEMON STONE ARE IN MY POSSESSION!!

THE TIME HAS COME...
THE TIME TO REVIVE THE DEMON LORD!!
OVERWHELMED BY THE ENEMY AND UNABLE TO FIGHT!!
WILL THEY SEE A RAY OF HOPE!?
NEXT CHAPTER: !!FIXATION!!
★表44号につづく★

最後の魔石13個
THE THIRTEEN DEMON STONE FRAGMENTS, ALL SAVE FOR ONE, HAVE BEEN GATHERED...
すべては
SUMMARY
DURING THEIR SEARCH FOR THE DEMON STONE, A STONE THAT IS SAID TO BE CAPABLE OF GRANTING ANY WISH, JOHN AND LU ARE FACED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF FUKUROU ONCE MORE. IN A FLASH, FUKUROU DESTROYS THE LITTLE MOUSE AND ANGERING JOHN EASILY RETREATS. IN FUKUROU'S HAND HE HAS ALREADY COLLECTED TWELVE FRAGMENTS OF THE DEMON STONE...
あと1つで魔王が復活する
JUST ONE MORE, AND THE DEMON LORD SHALL BE RESURRECTED!!
THE EVENT THAT CAN ONLY BE SEEN IN DREAMS!!
ALL THE DEMON STONE FRAGMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN GATHERED---!!
18th Night Lu's Move
Kamiyo Akimine

TWELVE...TWELVE PIECES OF THE DEMON STONE FRAGMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN COLLECTED...?! I'VE DREAMED OF THIS HAPPENING SO MANY TIMES!!
MY... MY WISH CAN COME TRUE. IF WE COULD ONLY GET A HOLD OF THEM!!
ALRIGHT... IT'S USELESS TO HIDE HERE... SO GIVE ME THE FINAL DEMON STONE PIECE QUICKLY... AND AT THE VERY LEAST, I'LL ALLOW YOU TO KEEP YOUR LIVES...
SO WHY DON'T YOU TWO, IN THIS DYING, HOPELESS STRUGGLE, JUST OBEDIENTLY ACCEPT YOUR FATE...
...IF YOU WON'T ANSWER...
...


THEN ALLOW ME TO QUESTION YOUR CORPSES!
JOHN ...
GU

UWAA
AAAAA
AAAH!!
HOW-
EVER...
FOR YOU TO STILL BE ABLE TO MOVE EVEN AFTER BEING STABBED LIKE THAT... THAT IS STRENGTH
SUCH EFFORT I HAD TO PUT FORTH JUST TO HAVE THAT SWORD PIERCE YOUR DEMON LORD'S ARM...
UGH
JOHN !!

GRAA AAH!!
IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO USE THE DEMON LORD'S ARM, THEN YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM AN ORDINARY PERSON...
NOW TELL ME...!! WHERE IS THE LAST DEMON STONE FRAGMENT...
SAY IT...!!

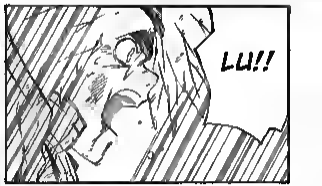
AH----...!! I JUST CAN'T WATCH, WHAT AN EMBARRASSING SCENE!
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO FORCE IT OUT OF JOHN LIKE THAT, HE'D DEFINITELY NEVER TELL YOU ANYTHING!
LU?!
...THE LOCATION OF THE LAST FRAGMENT OF THE DEMON STONE... WHAT IF I KNEW IT TOO?
... IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW... SHALL I TELL IT TO YOU, FUKUROU-SAN?
LU?! WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU
I ORIGINALLY TEAMED UP WITH JOHN FOR NO REASON OTHER THAN FINDING THE DEMON STONE TO GRANT MY WISH. THAT'S ALL.
AND SINCE FOLLOWING HIM IN GATHERING THE TWELVE DEMON STONES IT HASN'T BEEN THE TINIEST BIT BETTER, EITHER.
HOW ABOUT IT? WON'T YOU COOPERATE FUKUROU-SAN?
... FOR ME I WANT MY WISH TO BE GRANTED, NO MATTER WHAT!!

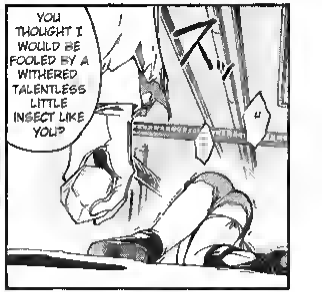
TO HAVE ONE OF ROYAL DESCENT CONTROL THE DEMON LORD AFTER HIS RESURRECTION COULD CAUSE HIM TO BECOME GENTLER.
OK!!
THEN WHEN THE TIME COMES, MY WISH WILL BE GRANTED TOO!! AGREED?! NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, I'LL REVEAL TO YOU WHERE THE FINAL DEMON STONE FRAGMENT IS
LU, YOU...
ACTUALLY...
...INTRIGUING
THE...
FINAL PIECE OF THE DEMON STONE FRAGMENT IS...

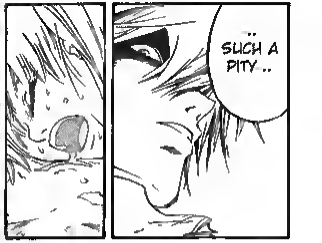
GOT IT!!
HEY, LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO WAY THIS DANGEROUS WOMAN WILL LET YOU HAVE THE DEMON STONE!!
JOHN!! GET OUT OF THERE WHILE I'VE BOUGHT US SOME TIME
LU!!

NO WAY —

ALRIGHT... TELL ME WHERE THE DEMON STONE IS THEN...
!!


LU!!


YOU THOUGHT I WOULD BE FOOLED BY A WITHERED TALENTLESS LITTLE INSECT LIKE YOU?


.. SUCH A PITY ..

LU!!
FUKUROU, YOU BASTARD!
GAH ...!
WASTED STRENGTH... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PULL IT OUT, SO JUST WATCH QUIETLY FOR NOW... IN YOUR CASE THOUGH, IT SEEMS THAT OTHER PEOPLE'S PAIN MIGHT GIVE ME BETTER RESULTS.
IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE GIRL'S SAFETY, THEN HURRY UP AND TELL ME WHERE THE DEMON STONE IS.
JOHN.. DON'T.. DON'T SAY IT...
AH!!
WAIT WAIT SIR! PLEASE RELEASE LU. PLEASE RELEASE HER!
YOU MANNERLESS MAN!
EEK!

AAAH!
UUUH...
HAAH...
ALRIGHT, TELL ME NOW OR WILL I AIM FOR YOUR HEART NEXT?
LU!!
STOP IT!
STOP IT, FUKUROU!!
ARGH...
HOLD ON.. LU!!

YOU STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY? YOU REALLY ARE A STUPID WOMAN IF YOU HAD BEEN OBEDIENT FROM THE BEGINNING, THEN IT WOULDN'T HAVE TO COME TO THIS
BUT WHEN YOU TWO HAVE DIFFERENT WISHES. WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU GO SO FAR FOR THE SILVERY CROW AS TO SACRI-FICE YOURSELF TO THE ENEMY?
YOUR KIND OF PEOPLE, WHO HAVE NO OTHER DESIRES EXCEPT FOR THE DEMON STONE...
ARE ALL JUST PATHETIC WORMS... !!

... IT'S LIKE THAT, HM? THEN IT'S TIME TO DISAPPEAR ...
I'M SORRY.
JOHN ..
I'M ALWAYS NEEDING YOU TO SAVE ME.
BUT WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
EVEN ONCE I WAS GOOD ENOUGH

I COULDN'T USE THE BLOOD CONTRACT TO MAKE MY STRENGTH BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU...
LU----!!

JOHN
...
THIS GUY... THAT HE WOULD MINDLESSLY TEAR HIS ARM FROM THE SWORD THAT RESTRAINED HIM IN ORDER TO SAVE HER...!!

JOHN
... I UNDERSTAND ...
... YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING, LL...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
... MM!
— NOW WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO SUCH A THING TO YOUR ARM? YOU CAN'T USE THE DEMON LORD'S ARM LIKE THAT —
!!

I'LL KILL YOU!!
HIS SCORCHING ANGER DRIVES OUT THE BODY'S PAIN, HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT REMAINING AS HE PREPARES TO ATTACK!!

NEXT: "HIDDEN IN THE ABYSS OF DARKNESS"
CONTINUED IN ISSUE 45

BOSS KAZAMI! THIS SHAKING DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD!!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT CLIMBING!! DUMBASS!!
...BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED DOWN THERE AFTER ALL...
...HM, I THINK I CAN PROBABLY GUESS...
SUMMARY - IN THE SEARCH FOR THE DEMON STONE, A STONE THAT IS SAID TO GRANT ANY WISH, FUKUROU APPEARS BEFORE JOHN AND LU WITH TWELVE FRAGMENTS OF THE DEMON STONE. LU WAS FORCED TO SUFFER UNDER FUKUROU'S CRUEL TORTURING AT THIS MOMENT, JOHN, EXPLODING WITH RAGE, FINALLY CHOOSES FUKUROU IN A BATTLE
WHAT'S THIS? THIS DRAWING IT'S GLOWING
SFX: GYAAAAAAH!

URAA AAA AAH!!
19th Night ✠ Fukurou's Rhapsody
Kamuryo Akimine
UNDETAINABLE AND UNSTOPPABLE, THE RAGING IRON FIST!!

JOHN...!!
JOHN...!!
HIS RAGE HAS BLOCKED OFF ALL RATIONAL THOUGHT---!!
UWAAAAAAAA!!

... IT'S USELESS, JUST LIKE BEFORE.
YOUR DEMON LORD'S ARM HAS NO EFFECT ON ME...
UW AAAA AAA!!

THIS IS MY WRATH ...!!
GU!!
UGH
WHY?! THE DEMON LORD'S ARM ... IT SHOULD BE USELESS AGAINST ME...
...IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DEMON LORD...
THIS IS MY HAND ...
THIS IS MY FIST...

JOHN---!!
HE SEEMS SO POWERFUL...!
HE'S NEVER HAD THIS STRENGTH BEFORE...
NEITHER IS HIS AGGRESSION THE SAME... COULD THIS BE THE EFFECT OF THE DEMON'S SOUL AND JOHN'S RAGE---?!
BUT--- BUT IF IT KEEPS GOING LIKE THIS WON'T JOHN BE SWALLOWED BY THIS STRENGTH?!
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
...JOHN...

GU!!
...SO YOU AVOIDED IT...
...BUT THIS TIME I'LL KILL YOU...
SUCH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH ONE STRIKE MIGHT—
THIS TIME I'LL DEFINITELY TAKE YOUR ARM.

AND CHOP IT INTO TWO ....!!
СОВа Рапсодия

ゴ
...WHAT?!
...DIDN'T I TELL YOU

THAT BOY...
...SO STRONG...

FUKUROU IS ABSOLUTELY NO MATCH FOR HIM--!!
UGH...
THE STONE, GIVE IT...

...I'LL NEVER GIVE IT TO YOU...
THAT STONE IS NOT MEANT FOR YOU TO USE FOR YOUR INSIGNIFICANT WISH...!!
...GIVE ME THE DEMON STONE...!!

YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME!!

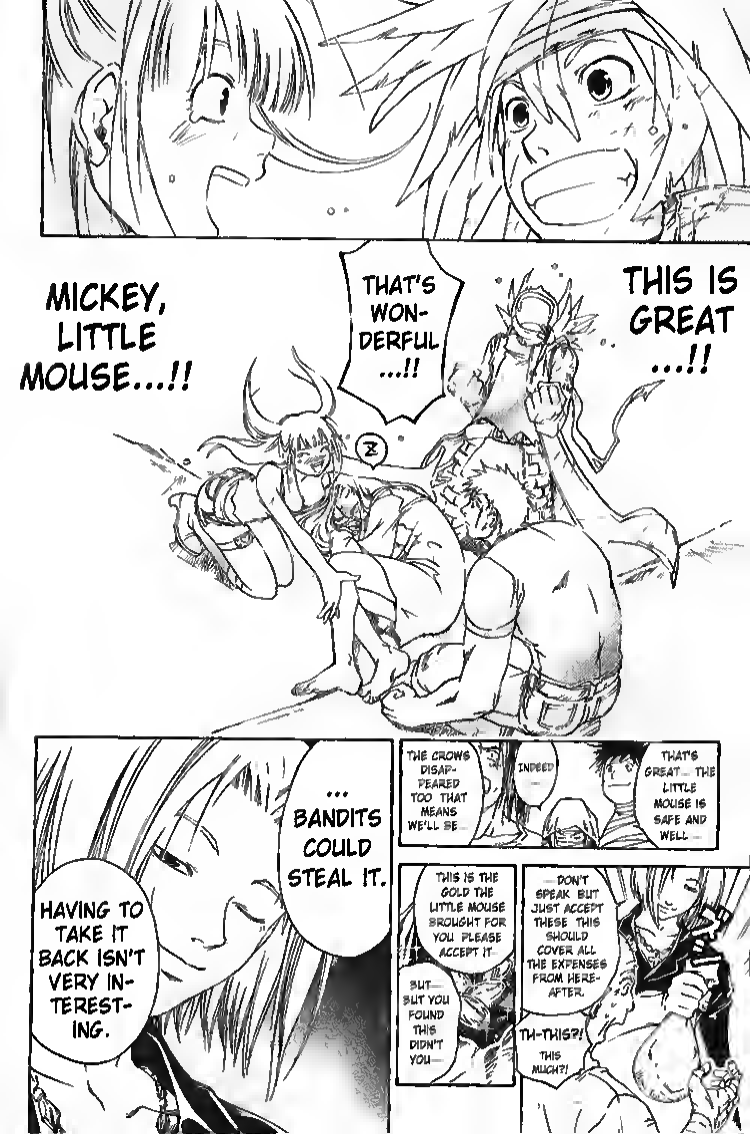
IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE I WANT TO GRANT MY WISH... IT'S ALSO BECAUSE I'VE SEEN YOU
HARM SO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE...
EVEN IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ELSE EXCEPT FOR WANTING TO GRANT MY OWN WISH...
I'LL NEVER GIVE YOU THE STONE...!!
...JOHN
...NO, I'LL LET YOU GIVE IT TO ME...
OTHERWISE IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR ALL OF US...
IF YOU DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, THEN GIVE IT TO ME...!!
...TOO LATE?
BUT SINCE YOU WON'T AGREE WITH ME...

THEN I'LL JUST LET YOU ALL DIE--!!
CROWS... CROWS HAVE APPEARED !!
UWA AAAA AAH !!
DAMN... THERE'S NO TIME...!!
IDIOT! STOP IT...

UH HUH.
KAZAMI!!
KA...

YOU'VE UNEXPECTEDLY GOTTEN YOURSELVES INTO A RATHER INTERESTING SITUATION...
FINE. FINALLY THERE'S SOME PROGRESS WITH THIS DEMON STONE PROBLEM. TRYING TO GET RID OF ME, EH? YOU'VE GOT SOME GUTS...
GAH!!
ゴっ
LU!! YOU ALRIGHT?!
JOHN... I'M FINE!
SO- SORRY
UKATSU, YOU BASTARD ---!!
I TOLD YOU TO THROW HIM OFF SOMEWHERE!! DON'T TWIST MY ORDERS AROUND, YOU ANNOYING IDIOT!!
DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU TO DEAL WITH THE GUY, HUH?!
もぞ"
WHAT'D YOU SAY ---?!
HE ONLY INTERRUPTED YOUR RAMBLING, THAT'S ALL
... THE

THE LITTLE MOUSE?!
WH-WHY...?!
IT CAN'T BE...
I'M REALLY SORRY... BUT WHY? LOL!
I HAD NO CHOICE, KNOWING HE'D BE UNABLE TO ENDURE ANY LONGER I GRACIOUSLY TOOK HIM AND BROUGHT HIM HERE!!
THIS GUY SUDDENLY STARTED OUT OF THE BLUE DRAWING WITH A LOUD SQUEAK.
THERE WAS ALSO A LOT OF CHILD WITH HIM.
BUT BOSS, DIDN'T YOU SUFFER FROM TOO MUCH OF A SHOCK AND LOST CONSCIOUSNESS, OR AM I MISTAKEN?
YOU!! YOU'RE AN IDIOT!!
THAT TIME... SO THE DRAWING MICKEY DREW CONCRETIZED AS A RESULT OF THE LITTLE MOUSE'S GENERATE FORCE...!!
AH??
IT'S- IT'S A FACT?!
—WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN IDIOT?
SO IT'S LIKE THAT ...!!


MICKEY, LITTLE MOUSE...!!
THAT'S WON-DERFUL ...!!
THIS IS GREAT ...!!
THE CROWS DISAP-PEARED TOO THAT MEANS WE'LL BE
INDEED
THAT'S GREAT... THE LITTLE MOUSE IS SAFE AND WELL...
THIS IS THE GOLD THE LITTLE MOUSE BROUGHT FOR YOU PLEASE ACCEPT IT
BUT— BUT YOU FOUND THIS DIDN'T YOU—
— DON'T SPEAK BUT JUST ACCEPT THESE THIS SHOULD COVER ALL THE EXPENSES FROM HERE-AFTER.
TH-THIS?!
THIS MUCH?!
... BANDITS COULD STEAL IT.
HAVING TO TAKE IT BACK ISN'T VERY IN-TEREST-ING.

LOOK, FUKUROU... YOU'VE ALREADY GOT NO CHANCE, YEAH...? JUST SURRENDER AND GIVE US THE DEMON STONE...
BULLSHIT... YOU SHOULD'VE ALREADY REALIZED THE FOOLISHNESS OF YOUR ACTIONS.
... WITH THE DEMON STONE,
IT WILL ALLOW ONE TO BECOME THE NEW MASTER OF THE DEMON LORD...!!
GIVE ME THE FINAL DEMON STONE FRAGMENT ---!!
WHAT? WHAT IF WE ALSO GAVE YOU A BETTER EXCUSE?
... OR ELSE!
SILVERY CROW, YOU HAD BETTER SAVOUR THE TASTE OF HELL!!
...GIVE IT TO ME! THERE'S NO TIME...!!

NEXT - JOY AND SORROW!
CONTINUED IN ISSUE 46

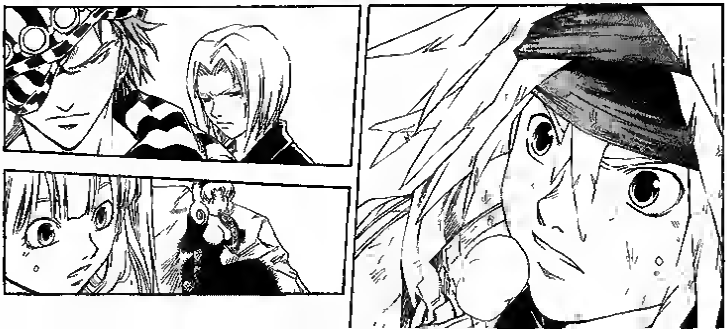
WITH THE DEMON STONE... IT WILL ALLOW ONE TO BECOME THE NEW MASTER OF THE DEMON LORD...!!
GIVE ME THE FINAL DEMON STONE FRAGMENT ---!!
HURRY!! HE IS COMING ...!!

THE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS FUKUROU!! HIS REASON IS ABOUT TO BE REVEALED!!

しろがねの狼 序次

20TH NIGHT - BLACK FEATHERS

KAMIJOU AKIMINE



...AND JUST A MOMENT AGO YOU WERE SO LOUDLY TALKING ABOUT THE DEMON LORD NEEDING A MASTER...DON'T THINK THIS WILL SCARE US
"HE"?!
WHO'S "HE"?!
THIS GRIM AND MERCILESS MAN HAS COLLECTED TWELVE FRAGMENTS OF THE DEMON STONE AND HAS THEM IN HIS HAND,
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, HE SEEMS TERRIFIED OF SOMETHING ---?!
PREVIOUSLY - JOHN AND LU ARE IN THE MIDST OF THEIR SEARCH FOR THE LEGENDARY STONE THAT IS SAID TO GRANT ANY WISH. THE DEMON STONE IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR SEARCH, FUKUROU APPEARS WITH TWELVE FRAGMENTS OF THE DEMON STONE ALREADY GATHERED, AND HE AND JOHN BEGIN TO FIGHT. HOWEVER, IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR BATTLE, SOMETHING NEAREY BEGINS TO MAKE FUKUROU NERVOUS...
AND WITH THOSE 12 FRAGMENTS, IT'D BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD GIVE JOHN A SINGLE MOMENT TO RETRIEVE THEM ALL AND RECOVER.
FUKUROU DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE THE FINAL DEMON STONE FRAGMENT IS INSIDE JOHN'S STOMACH...
KAZAMI
YEAH.
SORRY, JOHN...
...I DON'T KNOW HOW HOLY YOU THINK YOU ARE, BUT IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH US. WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS...

THE DEMON STONE IS THE REASON THAT WE, THE RED WIND, ACCEPT...!!
WE CAN'T LET THAT GUY GET AWAY!!
EH... WAIT, KAZAMI-SAN?! WAIT A SECOND..
...HAH!
...I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING AGAINST SUCH TRASH...
...TO BE TRASH... WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT OUT YOURSELF?

.....
HAHA
HAHA
IT'S BLACK-ARMED JOHN
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT KIND OF DREAMS SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE... BECAUSE EVERYONE LIVES FOR THE MOMENT UNTIL THEY CAN MAKE IT COME TRUE
JOHN, THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO

JOHN... I'VE DECIDED TO PROMISE MYSELF...
EVEN IF I HAVE TO RISK MY LIFE, I'LL TAKE ALL THE FRAGMENTS OF THE DEMON STONE WITH THIS HAND!!

.. JOHN
KUROI!!
IF YOU STRUGGLE ALONG THE WAY, JUST REACH FOR THE LIGHT, I PROMISE!!

COME ON, CHICKEN !!
PERISH, YOU TRASH ...!!

JOHN ?!
GET OFF! JOHN!! DON'T BLOCK ME...
...WHY WON'T YOU PEOPLE UNDER-STAND
I WON'T LET ANYONE RECKLESS-LY KILL FOR THAT STONE...
AND I WON'T LET ANYONE DIE FOR IT, EITHER...!!

...
JOHN.
...YOU'VE BECOME STRONG... I'LL HAVE TO CHANGE MY VIEW OF YOU, HUH?
YO... JOHN...
KU...

KUROI?!
WHAT?! KU... KUROI... SAN...
BUT... BUT ISN'T HE...
BUT DIDN'T HE DIE...?

レアっ
JOHN!! ISN'T THIS GREAT?!
DID YOU TRY THAT CURRY PLACE YET?! HM?!
KUROI... W...WHY
THAT TIME, DIDN'T YOU---
BUT I'M HERE NOW... RIGHT?
...WHAT? YOU'RE NOT HAPPY?
I THOUGHT SEEING ME ALIVE WOULD MAKE YOU JUMP FOR JOY MIRACULOUS RESURRECTION, HUH?! HEY ANYWAY, ABOUT MY BEHAVIOUR RIGHT NOW...
...SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.

HM?
SEE THAT'S THE WOUND I GOT
...KUROI
...NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, IT'S KUROI...
YOU ...
PFFT
YOU BASTARD! AFTER ALL THAT WORRYING I DID---!!

とはあ
まっは
EITHER FINDING THE DEMON STONE OR A CURRY HOUSE WOULD HAVE BEEN FASTER!
HOW COULD I FIND YOU WHEN I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR AGES!!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SCARE ME! I REALLY THOUGHT YOU DIED! WHY DIDN'T YOU COME FIND ME?!
THAT'S JUST LIKE KUROI TO UNDERSTAND ME!!
ボカッ
ドゴ
ぷか
NOW I'M IN THE MOOD FOR BEEF CURRY!!
YEAH! NOT WITH THE THIGH, BUT THE KIND OF MUSCLE-Y BEEF THAT'S STEWED AND COOKED FOR HOURS!!
...HAD ENDED.
BUT MR KUROI
HIS LIFE...
わっは、はっは、
...WHAT THE HELL...
ISN'T THAT THE MOST REFRESHING AND HEART-WARMING SCENE?

...NO, I WON'T ALLOW IT TO END LIKE THIS...
NO MATTER WHAT...
...EH?!
ANYWAY, JOHN, I'M WONDERING IF YOU'D HELP ME WITH SOMETHING.
WHAT'S WITH THE FORMALITY, JUST SPIT IT OUT.
CAN YOU GIVE ME YOUR DEMON STONE FRAGMENT?
...HUH?

UWAAAAAAH!!
KU... KUROI ---!!

SHIT... THAT HURT.
THAT SWORD... SPLIT INTO TWO?!
!!
I COULDN'T BREAK IT WITH THE ZERO FORCE IN MY ARM, SO HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN--?
UGH.
...TOO BAD, FUKUROU... THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU'LL BE TRYING TO BEAT ME.

THERE'S ALREADY NO ONE WHO CAN STOP ME, YEAH?
UW AA
AA
AA
AA
HH
!!

AH...
UH...
UH...
KU...
ROI...?!
...
TOO SLOW
...
LET'S... ALL TAKE EACH OTHER'S HANDS AND---

FOLLOW ME...THE NEWEST DEMON LORD...
BRIMMING QUESTIONS OF HATE ECHOES INSIDE THE BRAIN!! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THIS GENTLEMAN'S BODY?!
NEXT • THE EVILEST MOMENT
CONTINUED IN ISSUE 17

HUH? THAT'S...
IT'S THE REMAINS OF THE FOUR-WINGED DRAGON.
...BUT WHAT'S THAT HANGING OUT OF ITS STOMACH?
IT'S SAID THAT THE FOUR-WINGED DRAGON WOULD TAKE ITS MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION AND SWALLOW IT AS A WAY OF PROTECTION.
EVEN IF IT MEANT DEATH, IT STILL RISKED ITS LIFE TO PROTECT ITS MOST BELOVED TREASURE...
GREAT WORK, KURO!
...EH? WE'RE MISSING SOME
1
2
3
KURO!... NO GOOD---
HAHAHA!! SUCCESS, SUCCESS ---!

HE WON'T EVEN EAT CURRY. HE'S GOTTA BE IN REAL PAIN.
DOES HE NEED ONE OF THESE?
HIS STOMACH HURTS?? YOU THINK HE'S SICK?
!!
DUMB DUMBASS! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
JOHN HANG IN THERE

JOHN?! YOU ...!
はぁ はぁ
KU... KUROI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING...
!?
WHAT'D YOU EAT?! THAT AIN'T FOOD! THAT'S TEN TIMES STUPIDER THAN ANYTHING I'VE DONE!
...THE FOUR-WINGED DRAGON
EH?
I HAVE TO... PROTECT ...
OUR TREASURE ...
JOHN ...!
YOU'RE REALLY... A THOUSAND TIMES STUPIDER THAN ME...
DOING THIS TO PROTECT THE TREASURE,
IF YOU DIED, WOULDN'T THAT MAKE YOUR FAMILY AND COMRADES SUFFER?

HIS ONCE-UPON-A-TIME PARTNER BECOMES THE NEW DEMON LORD..?!
FOR WHAT REASON----..?!

21ST NIGHT - INSIDE THE STOMACH

KAMIJOU AKIMINE

SUMMARY - ALL THIRTEEN PIECES OF THE DEMON STONE HAVE FINALLY BEEN GATHERED IN ONE PLACE. JOHN, FUKUROU, AND KAZAMI FOR THE SAKE OF OBTAINING THE DEMON STONE, HAVE INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN A VIOLENT FIGHT. AT THIS TIME, JOHN'S FATHER-FIGURE KUROI, WHO WAS THOUGHT TO BE DEAD, APPEARS, DECLARING THAT HE IS TO BECOME THE NEW DEMON LORD. AFTERWARDS, HIS BODY CHANGES...

ドド
バキバキ
ドド
キバ
キバ
UW AAA AA
...WHAT IS THIS STRENGTH... THIS ZERO FORCE IS SO STRONG IT'S LIKE HE'S PUTTING ON SOME KIND OF SHOW! IF THIS GOES ON, WE'LL ALL BE KILLED...
OKAY!
EVERYONE GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!

I WON'T ADMIT HE'S ANY DEMON LORD, BUT RIGHT NOW, IT REALLY SEEMS LIKE HE IS...!
IT'S HOPE LESS
MANKIND MUST BE PRO-TECTED FROM THIS DE-STRUCTIVE POWER
UNLESS WE WERE TO USE THE DEMON STONE IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE COULD CONTROL THE DEMON WORLD, THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION..
...IT'S ALREADY COME TO THIS.
IT DISAP-PEARED?!
EVEN IF I HAVE ONLY ONE, THE STONES MUST BE PROTECTED UNTIL THE END---!
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO ACT IF THEY ARE TAKEN TO THE MOST DISTANT PARTS OF THE WORLD...
FUKUROU!

IT'S NO USE.
WHA ...
FUKUROU!
WHAT... WHAT SPEED ...!
HE'S RIGHT..
THE ABILITY BETWEEN THE TWO ARE AT COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVELS..!
THE TWELVE FRAG-MENTS OF THE DEMON STONE...
THEY'RE FINALLY IN MY HANDS ...

THEY'RE FINALLY IN MY HANDS ---
BUT EVEN IF HE RESURRECTS THE DEMON LORD. THE EMBODIMENT OF THE SOUL IS ALTOGETHER DEPENDENT ON THOSE THIRTEEN SHARDS OF THE DEMON STONE
WAIT FOR A CHANCE... IT SEEMS LIKE THIS BASTARD'S PRETTY INTERESTING
NO, WAIT.
WE HAVE TO FIGHT..
NO WAY ...!
HELP ...
NOW JOHN, GIVE ME THE FINAL DEMON STONE FRAGMENT, JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS WHEN YOU USED TO HELP ME.
HE DEFINITELY WON'T BECOME THE DEMON LORD---!
COME ON, JOHN...YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS.

SO IT'S TRUE THAT BY THE END OF ONE'S LIFE, SOME PEOPLE DIE WITH THEIR WISHES GRANTED, AND OTHERS DIE AS FAILURES... NO...!!
IT'S THE WORLD THAT'S WRONG---!
I HAVE TO DIE...?! SERIOUSLY?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
...AT THAT TIME...
WHY ?!
...I DON'T WANT TO DIE! WHY IS LIFE UNFAIR TO ME EVERY TIME?!
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE DESTROY IT ALL?
HUH ...?

TO TAKE FORM AS THE NEW, ULTIMATE DEMON LORD, SO I CAN DESTORY THIS WORLD---!
AND FOR THIS MOMENT I'VE GATHERED THE ZERO FORCE OF DEMONS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD,
I'VE ACCEPTED IT, AND IT HAS ACCEPTED ME...
CR... CROW ?!
I WILL BECOME THE ABSOLUTE, MOST POWERFUL RULER---!
ACTUALLY, I'LL EVEN TAKE THE ORIGIN OF HIS STRENGTH AND ABSORB HIM ENTIRELY.
THERE'S ALREADY NO NEED FOR THE PREVIOUS DEMON LORD'S SOUL.
YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING---?!

JOHN.. YOU'D UNDERSTAND.. THIS IS AN ALREADY UNFAIR AND UNENDURABLY CHAOTIC WORLD...
WHY DON'T WE DESTROY IT TOGETHER ?
THIS MEAN-INGLESS WORLD...
... OKAY?
I WANT TO BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.....
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?!
YOU INTEND TO HELP THAT BASTARD... HELP KUROI?
.. JOHN ?!
HE MAY BE THE DEMON LORD!!
JOHN...!
HE'S NO LONGER THE KUROI YOU KNOW!

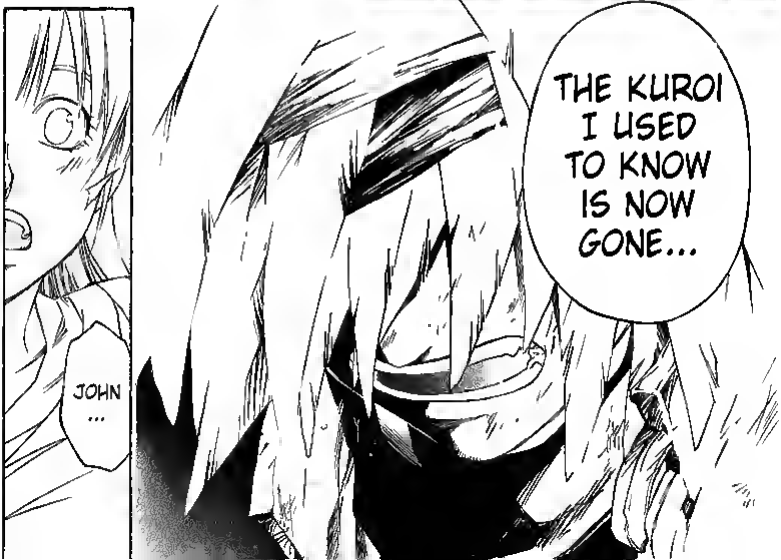
NO MATTER WHAT YOU BECOME, THE WAY I SEE IT, KUROI WILL ALWAYS BE KUROI...
BUT,
KUROI ...
OH?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A STRAIGHTFORWARD GUY
I WON'T HELP YOU.
FOR ME, EVEN WITH THE INJUSTICES I'VE GONE THROUGH, I STILL WOULDN'T DESTROY THE WORLD AS A WAY TO ESCAPE MY PROBLEMS.
SO... THERE REALLY IS NO CHOICE AFTER ALL... THEN
... JOHN.
?

NOO OO!
JOHN ...!

...SORRY, BUT I'M TAKING THE DEMON STONE FRAGMENT ...
...YOU REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED...HIDING TREASURE INSIDE YOUR STOMACH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HABIT OF YOURS...
...YE
GET... GET AWAY...!
.....!!

YEAAH!! HAHAHA, GOTCHA!
WHO'S THE IDIOT NOW, KUROI?!
HUH?
...
THE FOUR-WINGED DRAGON THING! YOU THOUGHT I WAS AS NAIVE AS BEFORE?!
I FINALLY GOT THE CHANCE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. YOU WERE REALLY THINKING OF THAT TIME! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THOSE EXAGGERATED, FREAKED OUT FACES YOU ALL HAD!
どわっはっは

KUROI, YOU WERE TRICKED FROM THE BEGINNING TOO!
THAT PART HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL!
YOU BASTARD! DON'T MESS AROUND---!
YOU SCARED ME TO DEATH
THE ENTIRE WORLD'S IN DANGER AND HE STILL HAS TIME TO PLAY AROUND---?!
BUT...
YOU HEAR ME?! HEY!
DOING THIS TO PROTECT THE TREASURE,
IF YOU DIED, WOULDN'T THAT MAKE YOUR FAMILY AND COMRADES SUFFER?


THE KUROI I USED TO KNOW IS NOW GONE...
JOHN ...

I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT THE WORLD HAS BECOME, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER...
AND I DON'T HIDE THE THINGS I WANT TO PROTECT INSIDE MY STOMACH ANYMORE.
I WON'T GIVE YOU THE DEMON STONE FRAGMENT ...
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT ME FOR IT...!
JOHN ...
... REALLY

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY REALIZED .....!
THE SEVERED FRIENDSHIP OF FORMER ALLIES!! THEY'VE MUTUALLY COMMITTED TO THEIR OWN PATHS AND WILL NOT COMPROMISE!!
NEXT - THE GIANT GAP
CONTINUED IN ISSUE 48

UWAA AAA!!
DAMN...
DAMN IT!

SUMMARY - ALL THIRTEEN OF THE DEMON STONE FRAGMENTS HAVE BEEN GATHERED IN ONE PLACE.
KUROI, JOHN'S FOSTER PARENT WHOM EVERYONE HAD THOUGHT HAD DIED, SUDDENLY APPEARS.
HE DECLARES THAT HE WILL BE THE NEW DEMON LORD, AND HE AND JOHN FIGHT.
22ND NIGHT - THE GREAT BATTLE!!
KAMIJOU AKIMINE
THE DECISION MADE BY THE TWO HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO THE OVERWHELMING GAP BETWEEN STRENGTHS!!

...AH!!
BONES... MY BONES...
UGH..
GU..
...EH, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE HITTING ME?
WHERE DID ALL THAT STRENGTH FROM BEFORE GO...?

MISS LU?!
WE'RE IN DANGER IF THIS GETS ANY CLOSER OR STRONGER... WE HAVE TO TAKE REFUGE FIRST! IF WE GET INVOLVED, WE'LL ONLY BE BLOWN AWAY!...HURRY!
JOHN...!
MY... MY HAND'S ALREADY AT ITS LIMIT...

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GRAB ONTO ME! YOU WANNA DIE?!
WHAT... WHY?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!
...I... BEFORE, WHAT I DID TO YOU---
SO YOU THOUGHT THAT I SHOULDN'T BOTHER WITH YOU?!
DON'T MIX ME UP WITH LIKES OF YOU!!

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE EVEN ASKING ME WHY I'M SAVING YOU...
I'M INSULTED ...!

HURRY AND GET THIS GUY SOME TREATMENT! AND
BUT... WHY?
MISS LU!
AND FUKUROU ?!
I WANT TO SAVE JOHN! I CAN DEFINITELY DO IT...! PLEASE HELP ME!
MR. KAZAMI! WE CAN'T LET THIS GO ON OR ELSE THE STRENGTH IN JOHN'S ARM WILL GO OUT OF CONTROL...
JOHN MIGHT BE...
...THOUGH I'M A BIT SCARED... I THINK JOHN'S THE SAME TOO.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS... BUT LISTEN, LU-CHAN, I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU, UNDERSTAND?

BETWEEN A PERSON WHOSE BODY IS FULL OF ZERO FORCE AND SOMEONE WHO'S JUST GOT AN ARM, THERE'S NO COMPETITION.
JUST AS SCARED AS I AM...
WHAT STUB-BORN-NESS.
I'LL... NEVER ...
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO GIVE ME THE FINAL FRAGMENT OF THE DEMON STONE, HOW ABOUT I SPARE YOU YOUR LIFE, FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?
GIVE IT TO ME...!

...YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
GWAH!
...I'LL NEVER GIVE THE STONE TO YOU...
UGH...
...IT'S OUT OF CONTROL
YOU'VE OVERUSED YOUR STRENGTH ...
GWA AAAA AAA!

...IF YOU WERE JUST A NORMAL PERSON, THEN YOU WOULD'VE HAD A SUDDEN, PEACEFUL DEATH...
NO, I SHOULD SAY THAT IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT ARM, THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE SEARCHING FOR THAT STONE...
UGH...
AHH...
GU...
YET YOUR WISH NEVER DID COME TRUE... HOW UNFAIR, WHY DOES EVERY-THING HAVE TO HAPPEN TO YOU?
...THIS WORLD IS TOO MUCH.
GU..
UGH
...
AH...
ALLOW ME TO SAVE YOU
FROM THIS PAIN.

TAKE THIS!!
!?
LU-CHAN! DO IT NOW!
THE GENERATE FORCE'S INCANTATION BECOMES A BINDING WIND?!
THIS IS...
KA...
KAZAMI...

GAH!
JOHN!
LU...
HURRY...
HURRY AND ACTIVATE THE CONTRACT...!

NO WAY
I...
I'LL BE KILLED ...!
ハナーっ

EVERYONE ...!
I CAN'T...
IT'S TOO LATE...

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE EVEN ASKING ME WHY I'M SAVING YOU... I'M INSULTED...
WH...
WHY...

JOHN!
...LU!

...
KUROI!!
TAKING EVERYONE'S HOPES INTO ONE, THE ROARS OF THEIR HEARTS AND STRENGTH CONTINUE TO BURN TOGETHER!!

LISTEN UP! I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE NEW DEMON LORD, OR WHATEVER CRAP YOU ARE.
WITH MY HELP, JOHN NOW HAS THE STRENGTH OF ABOUT A HUNDRED MEN!
GET IT?
23RD NIGHT - TIME TO FACE DESTINY
ALRIGHT JOHN! LET'S FOLLOW MY PLAN...
WE'RE OFF, LU!
HUH?!

1 + 1 = (INFINITY)!! TWO PERSON TEAM!! ZERO FEAR!!

KYA AAA AA AA
URAAA AAAAA AAAA!

IT... IT AP-PEARED---!
GREAT JOB! JOHN! LU!
IT'S NOT OVER YET!
WAIT ....
WAIT A SEC ...
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
GOIN' UP!!
LU!
THIS IS JUST A BIT TOO MUCH...
LU... WHAT?!

GREAT ... GREAT HIT...!
EXCELLENT, JOHN...! PERFECT---!
SO THIS IS THE DEMON LORD'S STRENGTH---!
は

GOOD... GOOD JOB, JOHN! MY... MY PLAN WAS A SUCCESS!
LET'S... LET'S TAKE THIS AND FINISH HIM OFF IN ONE SHOT!
LU... LU...
HEH HEH HEH...
YOU'RE ABLE TO USE THE DEMON LORD'S STRENGTH WITH THE CONTRACT...
AND I THOUGHT IT'D BE AN INTENSE POWER, SO I WANTED TO TRY IT OUT...
DOES IT SEEM LIKE IT'S ENOUGH?

IS THAT ALL YOU GOT?

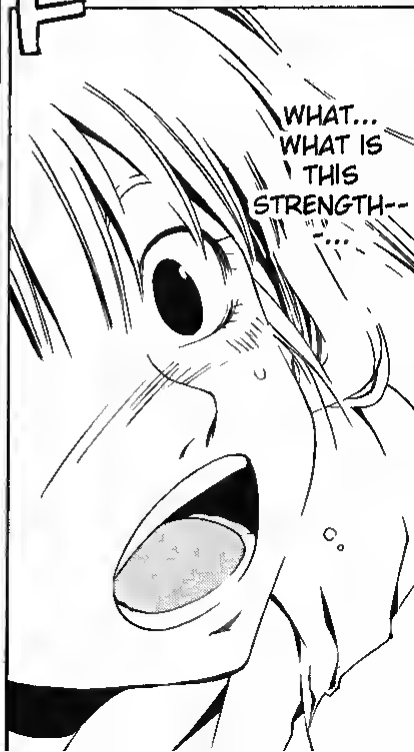
WHAT...?!
IT... IT WAS USELESS?!

HILARIOUS, THIS SO-CALLED STRENGTH.

WHAT WHAT THE HELL! THE DEMON LORD'S STRENGTH!
IT WAS TOTALLY USELESS, THAT...

IS THE DEMON LORD REALLY THIS POWERFUL---?!

A... AGAPE ...!
KY-AAAAAAA
DO
DO


WHAT... WHAT IS THIS STRENGTH--...

... IT'S NOT OVER---...
I WON'T LET IT END...!
TRYING TO STEAL AWAY? THERE'S NO ESCAPING NOW.
IT'S OVER... JUST GIVE ME THE DEMON STONE FRAG-MENT...
...
THEN
DIE.

DE... DEMONS ?!
NI... NICE! LU!
YEAH... YEAH! OF COURSE! NO SWEAT...

KYA!
THESE... THESE THINGS ARE TRYING TO BREAK IT...
ACK!
KY-AAAAAA!

OW
OW
OW
....
JOHN!
LU...!
...
JOHN?!

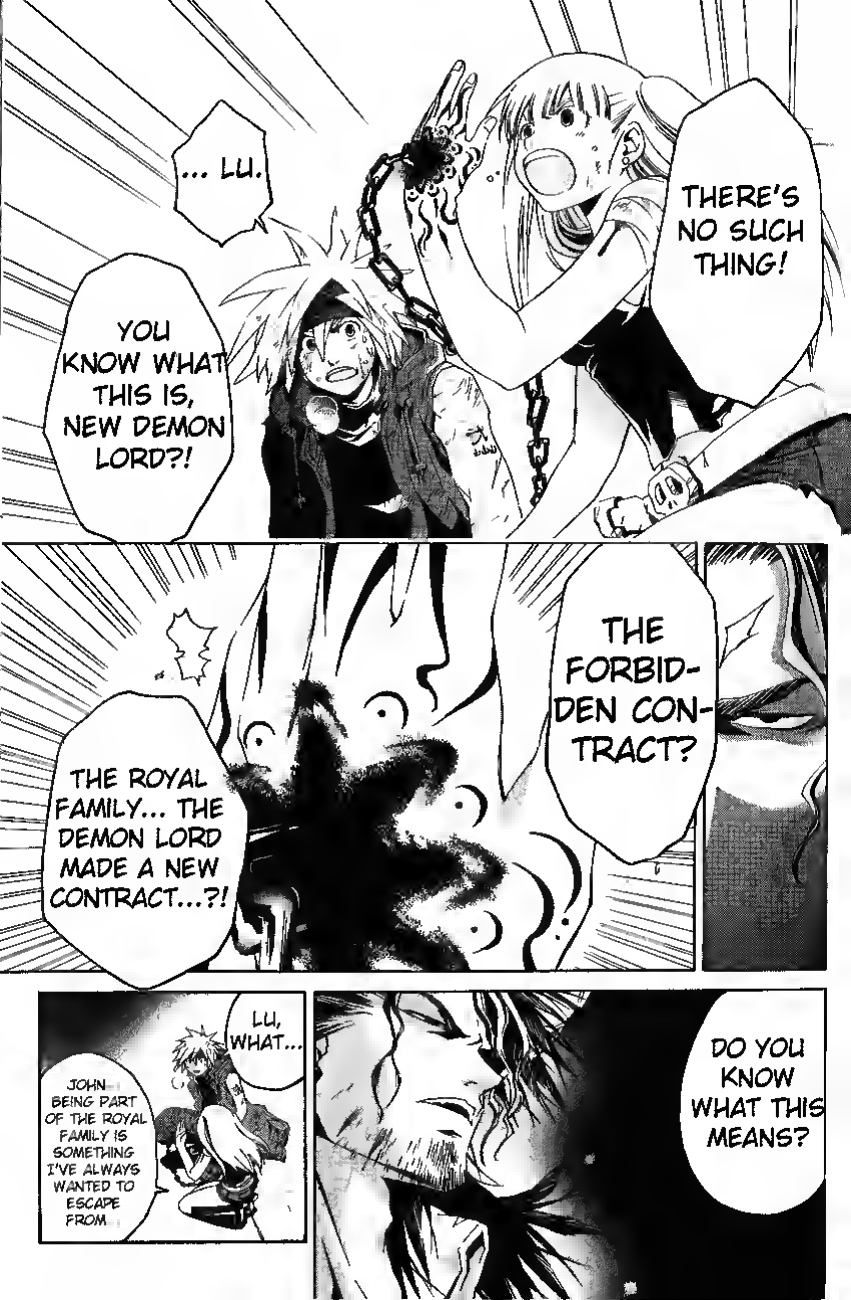
JOHN ...!!
GET UP....
JOHN ...!
WE HAVE TO GET OVER THERE! IF WE GO... IF WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY NOW...
YEAH!
... IT'S USELESS.
HUH?!
LOOKING AT THE BATTLE NOW, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO THAT WILL HELP...
WE'D ONLY GET IN THE WAY...
BOSS?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! SO WE'RE JUST GOING TO WATCH THEM DIE...?!

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, DEPENDING ON ME...
THIS SITUATION RIGHT NOW IS PROBABLY THE ONE HE MOST WANTS TO ESCAPE FROM!
BUT, THE KUROI I USED TO KNOW IS NOW GONE.
AGAINST AN ENEMY HE DOESN'T WANT TO FIGHT WITH...
THAT KID'S USING HIS MOST HATED DEMON ARM
... DOES JOHN REALLY WANT TO FIGHT?!
BUT THE ONE PERSON WHO ISN'T REPLACEABLE, HOWEVER, IS CLEARLY THAT BRAT...
IF I COULD, I WOULD'VE TAKEN HIS PLACE ALREADY...
JOHN... JOHN! GET UP!
JOHN!
KAZAMI...
THIS IS HIS FIGHT---!

JOHN...
JOHN... THAT'S ENOUGH... GET AWAY FROM HERE...
JOHN, YOU'VE ALREADY DONE YOUR BEST... YOU DON'T NEED TO FIGHT ANYMORE.
IF YOU KEEP GOING LIKE THIS, JOHN WON'T BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE HIS WISH...
MY... WISH...
ありがとう…ね
...
HUH? SAYING THAT ...
YOU DIDN'T YOU ONCE SAY THAT YOU'D MAKE ME CURRY?
I... STILL... REALLY LOVE PORK CURRY ~~~
...
CURRY ...

EH?! YOU... YOU CLEARLY SAID YOU'D MAKE ME SOME... WERE YOU LYING?
WHAT ARE YOU BULLSHITTING ABOUT?!
...I'LL DEFI-NITELY EAT IT...
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
NOT - THE - POINT!
YOU HAVE TO PUT IN LOTS OF MEAT, OKAY?!
I... I DID SAY THAT, BUT WHY ARE YOU BRINGING IT UP NOW?!
... GOTTA KEEP ON LIVING THEN... SO I'LL BE ABLE TO EAT LU'S CURRY.
YEAH... THAT'S WHAT I'VE DECIDED...!

YOU---...
...
JOHN
...
COME ON... LET'S END THIS... JOHN...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY, YOU WON'T EVER BEAT ME...


... LU.
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, NEW DEMON LORD?!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING!
THE FORBID-DEN CON-TRACT?
THE ROYAL FAMILY... THE DEMON LORD MADE A NEW CONTRACT...?!
LU, WHAT...
JOHN... BEING PART OF THE ROYAL FAMILY IS SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ESCAPE FROM...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?

BUT IF JOHN WON'T RUN AWAY, THEN I WON'T RUN AWAY EITHER!
LU...
COME, THE DEMON LORD WITHIN JOHN! GIVE ALL YOUR STRENGTH TO HIM!!
AND TRADE MY LIFE FOR IT---!!
CONFRONTING THIS FRIGHTENING MATTER FOR THE SAKE OF EVERY-ONE!! FOR JOHN!! THE REALIZATION OF BURNING HER OWN LIFE!!
NEXT - CONCLUSION?!
CONTINUED IN ISSUE 50

UGH
MR. FUKUROU.
GU
UGH
MR. FUKUROU
... WANT TO LIVE?
... WANT TO DIE?
I CAN HELP YOU A LITTLE, NO PROBLEM... JUST A LITTLE BIT THOUGH, JUST A LITTLE BIT.
HEY, HEY, EVEN THOUGH DYING HERE SEEMS GOOD NOW... MR. FUKUROU, YOU SAVED JOHN'S CAUSE.
YOU. YOU'RE.
... LITTLE MOUSE...?!
NO... NO WAY...

I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. ANYWAY, WHEN I WOKE UP AND BEGAN THINKING LIKE THIS... I DISCOVERED THIS POWER
SAYING... SAYING THIS... SO... YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE THAT YOU ARE THE LITTLE MOUSE, THEN?
?
NO, EVERYONE HAS THIS.
ぴた ぴた
... THIS IS
I... I'M NOT A RE-GENERATE MASTER... IT... IT'S USELESS... EVEN IF THERE WAS A WAY TO APPLY IT AS A WEAPON, I DON'T POSSESS ANY REGENERATE FORCE AT ALL...
THIS, THIS! MR. FUKUROU NEEDS THIS, OR YOU WON'T LIVE.
RE... RE-GENERATE FORCE..!
THE POWER TO EXIST...
THE POWER TO LIVE..
THE POWER THAT EXCEEDS ALL OTHERS IS THE HUMAN WILL----..

GAMBLING HER LIFE AGAINST THE FORBIDDEN CONTRACT! FROM THE GIRL'S DETERMINATION, WHAT DOES THE DEMON LORD DEMAND IN RETURN?!
THE DEMON LORD WITHIN JOHN, LISTEN UP! GIVE ALL YOUR STRENGTH TO JOHN---!
And trade my life for it—!
24TH NIGHT - THE VOID OF FLUTTERING FEATHERS
AUTHOR: KAMIJOU AKUMINE
SUMMARY: THE GANG MEETS UP WITH JOHN'S FOSTER FATHER, WHO IS ALSO SEARCHING FOR THE DEMON STONE--- AFTER KUROI, ONCE THOUGHT TO BE DEAD, CONFRONTS JOHN IN AN UNRELENTING BATTLE COMMENCES. KUROI, WHO HAS BECOME THE NEW DEMON LORD, POSSESSES A FEARSOME STRENGTH. WITNESSING THIS IS LU, WHO USES HER OWN LIFE TO ACTIVATE THE FORBIDDEN CONTRACT

... LOVELY.

!?
THE... THE DEMON STONE FRAGMENTS...!
WHAT...
THE DEMON ARM... ABSORBED ALL OF THE FRAGMENTS--!

WHAT... WHAT THE HELL?! THIS POWER...
THAT SHADOW...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE DEMON LORD'S FINALLY MAKING AN APPEAR-ANCE...
JOHN! DO IT NOW!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO BEAT KUROI...

GIVE ME...
THE DEMON STONE--!

THIS IS THE END--!
JOHN! IT'S... IT'S GETTING OUT OF CONTROL... IF THIS GOES ON...
JOHN...
GAH...
URAH...
HE... COUNTERED IT?!

ALRIGHT! BUT, I'LL DE--FINITELY NEVER LOSE TO KUROI!
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, LET'S BOTH AGREE NOT TO BE TOO HARSH ON EACH OTHER, ALRIGHT?
JOHN, SINCE BOTH OF US ARE LOOKING FOR THE DEMON STONE, THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN WE WILL BE AGAINST EACH OTHER.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO WIN, YOU COULD JUST USE THAT ARM OF YOURS
CHEAT-ER---! THAT'S UNCALLED FOR--!
... EVEN IF IT'S LIKE THIS?!
NO... NO WAY...!
... EH?? BUT IF I'M AS STRONG AS YOUR ARM, WHAT CHANCE WILL YOU HAVE?
... HUH?!
... JUST SAYING.
... THAT DEMON LORD'S ARM.

"AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE WILL, YOU CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING" HUH? HOW INNOCENT
I'D NEVER DO THAT!
WASN'T IT KUROI WHO SAID THAT "AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE WILL YOU CAN ACHIEVE ANY-THING"?
I DON'T NEED THIS ARM AT ALL!
AND WHY WOULD I EVER HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST KUROI?!
AFTER A SHORT TIME, THIS SO-CALLED 'WILL' ONLY END UP BECOMING AN 'ESCAPE'.
THIS MERE 'WILL' WON'T MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE... AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, NO MATTER WHAT THE TRUTH IS OR WHAT IT BECOMES, YOU'LL HAVE TO FACE IT, JUST THE SAME.
KUROI, AL-THOUGH I DIDN'T UN-DERSTAND WHAT YOU WERE SAYING AT THE TIME,
THE KIND OF HOPELESS PERSON THAT DOES THAT, NOT ONLY WOULD HE NOT ACHIEVE HIS WISH, BUT HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH EVEN THE SIMPLEST TASK.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND A LITTLE MORE NOW--...

JOHN...!
GOT HIM...
ドオ

KU... KUROI...!
ズズズ
HE... HE... WANTS TO ABSORB THE ZERO FORCE AGAIN?!
WHA... WHAT'S THAT?!
STILL NOT ENOUGH... THIS BOUNDLESS ZERO FORCE IS ALL UNDER MY CONTROL...

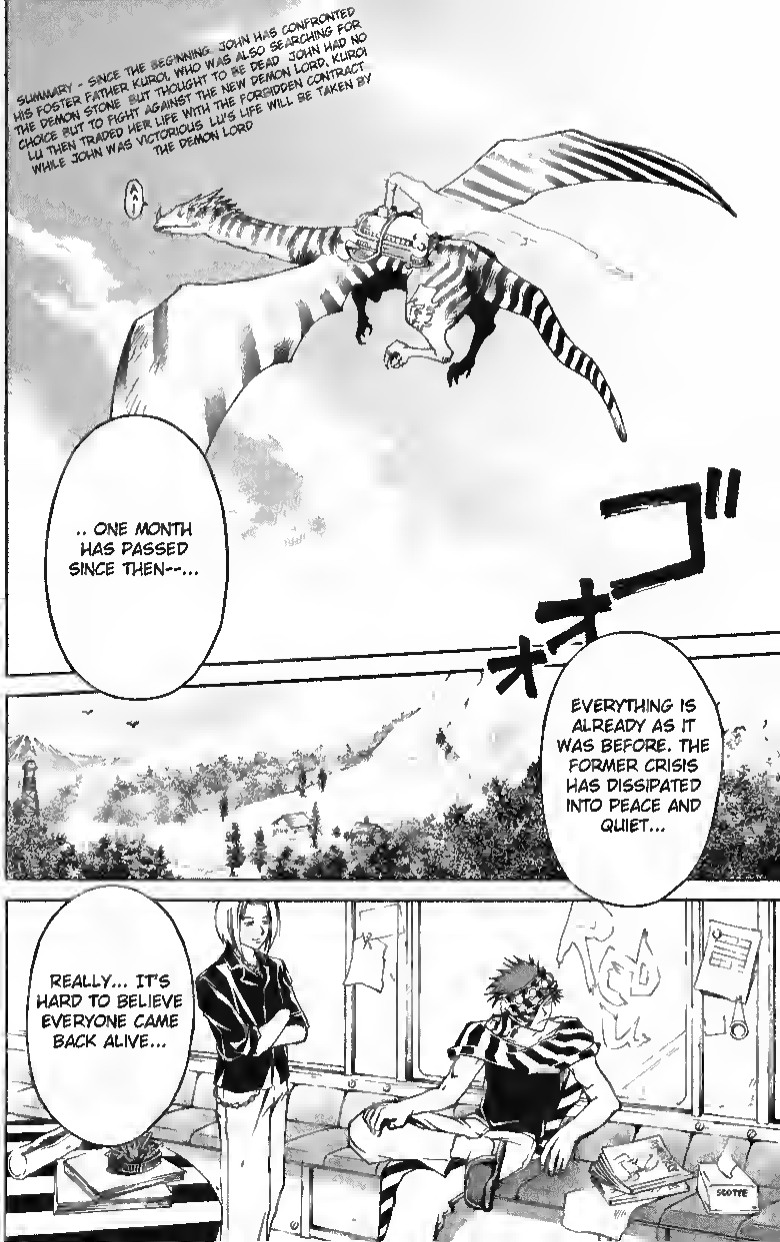
WHAT... IS THIS... POWER ..
!?
IT'S.....IT'S THE ZERO FORCE ZERO FORCE WILL EVEN ABSORB POWER THAT IS NOT ITS OWN BY DOING SO IT COULD DESTROY THE HOST'S BODY
WHAT THE...?!
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO HANDLE THE IMMENSE POWER OF HIS OWN ZERO FORCE...
ARGH...
.....JOHN.
KU... ROI...

KUROI...
!?
LU?!

YOU BASTARD .....!
STOP!
... LU!
MY ARM...!
SHIT...
NO NO NO NO— THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL! THIS IS AGREEMENT OF THE FORBIDDEN CONTRACT MADE BY LU AND THE DEMON LORD..
THE ZERO FORCE IN JOHN'S ARM IS SUCKING UP EVERYTHING...!
THE DEMON LORD IS TAKING LU'S LIFE!
... NO WAY...
I-- WON'T ALLOW IT--!

VEILING THE BRIL-LIANT LIGHT OF THE SKY,
..... THE LAST THING I SAW,
WAS THE FLUTTERING DANCE OF SILVERY FEATHERS--...
IN THIS WORLD BATHED IN LIGHT, WHAT COLOUR WILL IT BECOME NOW...?
NEXT - AND THEN..
CONTINUED IN ISSUE 51

NO MATTER WHEN... NO MATTER WHERE... JUST BELIEVE IN YOURSELF----!
レベル1の勇者
25TH NIGHT
THE DEMON LORD'S RESURRECTION!
AUTHOR: KAMIJOU AKIMINE


SUMMARY - SINCE THE BEGINNING, JOHN HAS CONFRONTED HIS FOSTER FATHER KUROI, WHO WAS ALSO SEARCHING FOR THE DEMON STONE. BUT THOUGHT TO BE DEAD, JOHN HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT AGAINST THE NEW DEMON LORD. KUROI LU THEN TRADED HER LIFE WITH THE FORBIDDEN CONTRACT WHILE JOHN WAS VICTORIOUS. LU'S LIFE WILL BE TAKEN BY THE DEMON LORD
.. ONE MONTH HAS PASSED SINCE THEN--...
ゴオオ
EVERYTHING IS ALREADY AS IT WAS BEFORE. THE FORMER CRISIS HAS DISSIPATED INTO PEACE AND QUIET...
REALLY... IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE EVERYONE CAME BACK ALIVE...
SCOTTE

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THOSE TWO...
JOHN AND LU RISKED THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT EVERYONE...
.....
WHY ~~~~?
WHAT...?!
.....!?
!?

YOU TRYIN' TO KILL US--!
IT'S A BIT TOO EARLY TO THANK THEM FOR SAVING US
?
WHY DID THE GAS STOVE EXPLODE ---?!
PHEW...
One month ago
When I came to, however, I found myself surrounded by silvery feathers, and I was no longer eroding away from the Demon Lord's zero force.
I really thought I was going to die then.
Because of the forbidden contract, the Demon Lord should have taken my life.

Even the Demon Lord lacked the power to contain the strength of the regenerate force...

Those were John's feathers... It's said that the regenerate force everyone had inside of them had created a miracle.

... YOU. HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET ON OUR SHIP? HUH? I FIND YOU REPULSIVE.
BO... BOSS?! JUST LET HIM GO.
IT'S NORMAL TO TRANSPORT CARGO ANYWAY
EVEN MR. JIN SAYS SO
THIS SCARF IS SO COOL
THIS SCARF IS SO COOL
We currently need someone to wash dishes. You can do it
W-HAA AAT?!
BOSS SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED HIS MIND AGAIN

IN A SAUNA
EVERYONE'S HERE! GO EAT, OKAY?
IT'S READY--!
HERE EVERYONE, TRY LU'S SPECIALLY-MADE ♡CURRY.
LET'S EAT--...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE EATEN A GIRL'S HOME-MADE MEAL
じゅ——ん...
THA...
THANKS

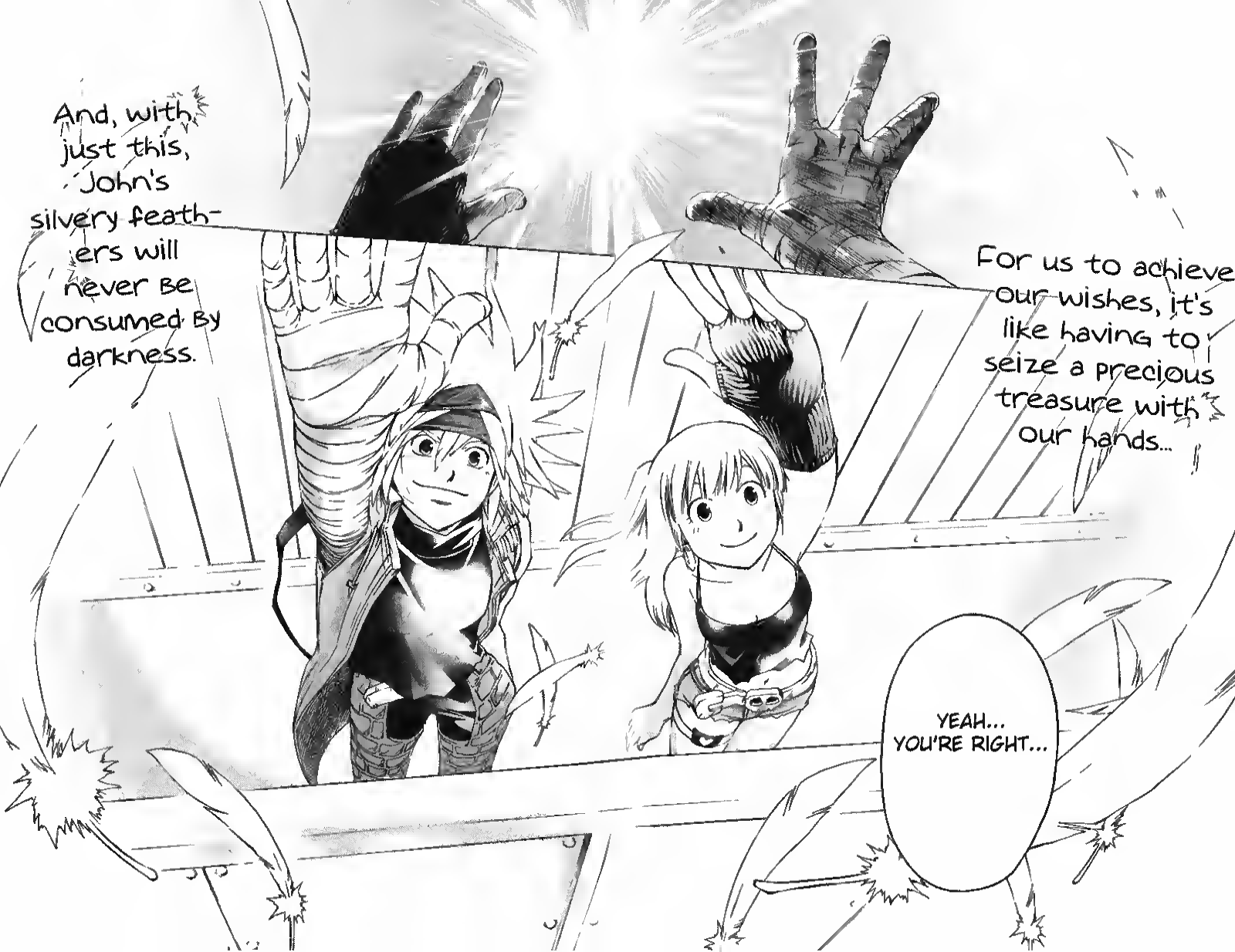
Just like the Vice-Boss! Fearless.
YES. DELICIOUS.
HOW IS IT? IS IT GOOD?
UU...!
GEEZ! IF IT'S BAD, JUST SAY SO!
VICE-- VICE-BOSS--!
HANG ON!
THERE'S STILL A LOT IN THE POT TOO.
If it's that bad... Then I can't let him taste it--

HUH? NONE LEFT.
JOHN... JOHN! WHY ARE YOU HELPING YOURSELF TO IT---! THAT CURRY'S BAD--!
I'LL DEFINITELY MAKE A MORE DELICIOUS ONE FOR JOHN!
AH - FORGET I SAID ANY-THING
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S REALLY BAD-TASTING! BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL FIGHT ANYONE JUST TO EAT THIS CURRY!
HUH? REALLY
DAMN, FORGOT TO WATCH MY STRENGTH.
IDIOT--!
GONNA BE YELLED AT BY KAZAMI— BUT IF I DON'T TELL HE WON'T KNOW
HE'LL DEFINITELY KNOW

THE END LOOKS JUST LIKE THE BEGINNING...
AND JOHN'S DREAM DIDN'T COME TRUE EITHER...
After John's arm absorbed all of the Demon Stone fragments, little has happened...
THIS ARM ALSO DOESN'T MATTER.
HUH?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I FEEL LIKE I KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHAT MR. KUROI MEANT BY THE WORLD NOT HAVING ANY JUSTICE...
NO MATTER WHAT MY ARM IS, I'LL STILL BE ME, RIGHT?

KUROI, ALTHOUGH IN THE FINAL MOMENT HIS MIND BECAME DISEASED,
"IN SPITE OF WHATEVER KIND OF ARM OR WHATEVER KIND OF OBSTACLES, AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE WILL TO SUCCEED, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IT."
THAT'S WHAT KUROI PROBABLY MOST WANTED TO TELL ME.
I... WILL BELIEVE IN THIS...


And, with just this, John's silvery feathers will never be consumed by darkness.
For us to achieve our wishes, it's like having to seize a precious treasure with our hands...
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT...

Ah... Will - will those two ?!
WE... WE'VE K KISSED QUITE A FEW TIMES, HAVEN'T WE...?!
UH, JOHN, ABOUT... ABOUT THE CONTRACT...
THE... THE ATMOSPHERE SEEMS GOOD...
...UHN.
CAN YOU SEE?
ABOUT... ABOUT THAT!
I... IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S NOT ABOUT THE CONTRACT.
AS LONG AS IT'S JOHN--...
WHY WOULD I EVER LET YOU DO THAT.....

... I WILL NOT ALLOW...
I'M ACTUALLY NOT LIKE THAT–
COULD IT BE THAT JOHN HATES FEISTY WOMEN .?!
HUH?!
HUH..
FOR YOU AND JOHN TO DO THAT...
!!!
OH, THIS PERSON.
WHAT.. PER... PERSON?! FROM.. THE ARM?!

SHE'S THE DEMON LORD.
I'M MAOU.*
WHAT ~~?!
*NOTE: A PUN ON THE WORD HER NAME AND "MAOU" (WHICH MEANS "DEMON LORD" IS SPELLED WITH SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT KANJI.)

As long as Lu is alive, the contract's still in effect--?!
I FORGOT
THEN THAT MEANS
BUT... BUT THIS, THE FORBIDDEN CONTRACT EXCHANGED LU'S LIFE FOR THE DEMON LORD'S STRENGTH. BECAUSE THE DEMON STONE FRAGMENTS WERE ABSORBED IT MUST HAVE RESURRECTED THE DEMON LORD
MAOU, HUH. SEEMS INTERESTING
MAOU-- MAOU--
SHE'S A GIRL
DE... DEMON LORD?! THIS THIS BABE IS?!
EVERY... EVERY-ONE...
... YES, SO IF YOU DARE TO APPROACH JOHN....
I WILL TAKE YOUR LIFE.
AHH--!
ピュー
ピA"
THERE'S NO CHICKEN IN THE CHICKEN CURRY.

DIDN'T YOU PROMISE ME YOU WOULDN'T HURT LU?! IF YOU BREACH THE CONTRACT, IT'S LIKE EATING CHICKEN-LESS CHICKEN CURRY!
LU... YOU OKAY?
He's using this tone to speak to the Demon Lord..?!
She's the Demon Lord, the Demon Lord! Someone stop that idiot--! We're all gonna die...
The world is doomed--!
I'LL BEHAVE ...
MAOU IS A BAD GIRL...
YOU MUST SCOLD ME MORE... JOHN...
WHAT DID YOU SAY EARLIER?
DEFI-NITELY
SHE REALLY LIKES JOHN
... JOHN. . WHAT ARE YOU DOING--
The Demon Lord is clearly OBEYING---!
BLUSH-ING

DON'T WORRY. NO MATTER WHAT MY ARM IS, I'LL STILL BE ME, RIGHT?!
どがぁ
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO DIE! STUPID CROW--!
PLEASE CALM DOWN MISS LU--!
VICE-BOSS! NOT THE TIME TO BE SAYING THIS!
WHATEVER IS FINE BUT I HOPE IT DOESN'T MEAN ANOTHER PERSON IS COMING ON BOARD!

... SEEMS LIKE THE CRISIS OF THE DEMON LORD DESTROYING EVERYTHING HASN'T COMPLETELY GONE AWAY YET.
WHY DON'T WE ALL RECONCILE OVER CURRY!
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS?! STUPID CROW!
THIS STORY HAS TEMPORARILY REACHED ITS END HERE.
BOSS! TROUBLE! IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!
HOPEFULLY IN ANOTHER DARING ADVENTURE, WE WILL MEET AGAIN.
EVACUATE! EVACUATE~!
Fin
THANKS FOR EVERYONE'S SUPPORT! STICK AROUND FOR KAMIJOU-SENSEI'S NEXT WORK!